

WILLIAM H. MURDOCK

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to
Dawe
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The children of Joseph Stacy Murdock, first bishop of Heber City. Most of them spent their lives in Wasatch County. Seated, left to right, Ann Coleman; Margaret Murray; Ellen C. (Lottie) Wright; Jane Hylton. Back row, left to right, Parley A. Murdock, Andrew Murdock, Alva Murdock, William Murdock, David N. Murdock, John H. Murdock and Frank Murdock.

ing program for leadership. Those of experienced leadership quickly trained their counselors and local brethren and then were often called to other areas, leaving Church administration in the hands of those they had trained.

Bishop Murdock chose men of the area as his counselors. They were John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband with John Hamilton as ward clerk. In addition to presiding over Heber Ward, these men also directed Church affairs throughout the valley.

Under Bishop Murdock's direction, presiding elders were appointed in the communities that by this time were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named at Center Creek in 1861 and Sidney Epperson was called as presiding elder in 1862 for the upper Snake Creek settlement. In 1864 David Van Wagonen was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area and John Watkins of Midway was later appointed to preside in Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings on Sunday.

The calling of Bishop Murdock in Heber Ward lasted until 1867 when he was called by President Young to move to Southern Utah and attempt to raise cotton there. During his six years in Wasatch County he gained the love and respect of the people for his kindness and gener-

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The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor.

the famous "Bolton Choir" of England and performed on several occasions before Queen Victoria.

Through their training and interest in music, the Forties organized one of the first choirs in Heber Valley. The only music in the beginning was an old Sanky and Moody hymnal which Mr. Fortie had brought from Scotland. There was no organ or piano available for accompaniment, so Mr. Fortie would play the cornet and teach choir members the notes, and then play the cornet while the choir sang their numbers.

When Wasatch Stake was organized, Mr. Fortie became the first stake chorister. By this time an organ had been purchased and Jane H. Turner and Mary Bond were trained as accompanists for choirs and other singing.

Another early music leader in Heber was Roger Horrocks who played a bass viol, which he affectionately called his "Baby." Mr. Horrocks accompanied the choir singing, and provided music for many special programs and dances. Other popular musicians in early Heber included "Hen" Walker, Jim Wheeler and Will Murdock who played the banjo, violin and accordion, and Robert McKnight, a violinist. The Murdock brothers, Tom, Dave, Brig and Joe, along with Dick Duke and Edd Murdock were also popular dance musicians.

In addition to choir singing, music was primarily enjoyed for dancing parties. Orchestras or individual musicians traveled throughout the valley to play for dances and socials. The music for many years con-

William H. Murdock

HEBER CITY—William H. Murdock, 81, farmer and stockman and Wasatch County pioneer, died at his home Sunday afternoon after a long illness.

About four years ago he was crushed by a bull but miraculously recovered. Last January he underwent a major operation.



He was born April 9, 1861, in American Fork, son of Joseph S. and Jane Sharp Murdock. The family moved to Heber City while he was a baby and he has since made it his home.

He was married July 25, 1881, to Melissa Arletta Baum, who died seven years ago. Four of their seven children survive:

Wallace S. Murdock of Toppinish, Wash.; Mrs. Ruby M. Gott of Seattle, Wash.; Della and I. Stacy Murdock of Heber City. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and the following brothers and sisters: David N., Parley A. and Andrew H. Murdock, Mrs. Janie McDonald and Mrs. Ann Coleman of Heber City; Mrs. Margaret E. Murray of Park City, Alva and Frank Murdock of Duchesne.

Early in his life Mr. Murdock worked with his father and brothers as a farmer, timberman, and mail carrier. Later he worked in the Park City mines a few years and then returned to Heber, where he specialized in breeding fine Jersey cattle, which he proudly displayed at county and state fairs.

He was an expert veterinarian and served the county in that capacity for many years. For 16 years he was janitor of the Wasatch County High School. He was popular, even to the last few months, as an accordion player.

He was a member of the Church and held the office of High Priest at the time of his death. He had an outstanding record as a ward teacher.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. Interment will be in the Heber Cemetery.

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